

A new record of *Utetheisa pulchella* (LINNAEUS, 1758) from Poland

(Lepidoptera, Arctiidae)

by

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Utetheisa pulchella (L.) is the only member of that genus occurring in Europe. The moth inhabits huge areas of Africa and South Asia except its eastern parts. In Europe the species is well known as a migrant and resident populations were reported from Spain (MACIA et al., 1998; MACIA & YLLA, 1998).

According to a classification proposed by "Deutsche Forschungszentrale für Schmetterlingswanderungen" *U. pulchella* belongs to group III (Emigrants) gathering species which migrate within their area of occurrence and do not return to the original areas from which they came (EITSCHBERGER et al., 1991).

Published data concerning migrating specimens of this moth are more frequent and regular in Southern Europe (EITSCHBERGER & STEINIGER, 1994; 1995; 1999). Records from the Middle and North-Western parts of the continent are sporadic and in most cases very old. Some relatively new findings come from Denmark (EITSCHBERGER & STEINIGER, 1998) and Germany (former GDR) (SCHMIDT, 1991).

The last occurrence of *U. pulchella* in Poland was reported at the turn of the 19th century when it was caught in several places (ROMANISZYN, 1930).

The new specimen (one ♂) was collected by the first author in Ostrów near Sulejów (51° 22' N 19° 52' E; DB29 UTM) on 15.VI.1992. The moth was attracted at about 1 a.m. to a 450 W light trap situated in a garden near the Pilica river. Its condition clearly shows that the moth travelled a long way (from Southern Europe?).

The specimen is deposited in the collection of the Museum of Natural History, University of Łódź.

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